

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Transient Housing

1. [REDACTED]

In Bauska and Riga it was possible to stay at the lebraucama vieta for five rubles per person; a room in a hotel cost ten to twelve rubles a night. There was a 100-ruble fine for giving lodgings to German refugees.

Prices in Restaurants

2. Restaurants in Riga were State-owned and had numbers. Usually there are uniformed waitresses and meals are paid for when served, generally without tips. Often there is radio music. The following prices were charged in 1951:

Hamburger	1.20-2.00 rubles
Beef and potatoes	3.20 rubles
Pork chop	5.00 rubles
Small glass of cognac	1.75-1.80 rubles
3/8 liter bottle of cognac	60-70 rubles
3/8 liter bottle of vodka	17 rubles
Bottle of champagne	105 rubles

Food Prices

3. Generally, prices dropped after 1948, but by 1950 they climbed again because of the decrease in production of food following kolkhozization. In Lithuania prices were the lowest, although they were approximately the same as in

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Latvia, but in Estonia food was more expensive, and in Leningrad it was much more expensive than in Riga. Several items were scarce, i.e., sugar; at the same time candy and chocolate were available in abundance. It was striking that luxury items such as tobacco, candy, and liquor were available in abundance and comparatively cheap, whereas meat and bread were already scarce in 1949. [ ] people queueing for bread in Tallinn in

[ ] starting 0330 hours, and [ ] in Latvia and Lithuania. Bread was of a very poor quality, watery and with potatoes and bran added. [ ] in

Panevezys [ ] the dough was poured into the forms like water, and the same kind of bread was seen in the shops in Riga. Usually the best food could be bought only on the market, not in the shops, since the farmers sold their own produce such as bread and fats on the market; but, on the market, prices were higher due to the scarcity of the food items, and changed according to demand and supply. Poor-quality bread in the shops cost 3.20 rubles per one kg, but the farmers' bread on the market cost up to 9 rubles per one kg. White bread in the shops cost 5 rubles per kg, and rolls cost 1 ruble apiece. The dark bread for 3.20 rubles per kg tasted of kerosene and the beverage called kvas which is made of this bread tasted like vinegar if allowed to stand for a while. On the market, people often could not get everything or could get it only "under the counter" for a very high black-market price; [ ] in Leningrad on the market for 80 rubles per kg. Fruit was also very scarce, and in autumn 1950 apples cost 70 rubles for one centner on the market in Riga. [ ]

[ ] one centner to be 50 kg, though in Eastern Europe one centner usually means 100 kg). The apples were brought from the vicinity of Bauska. The price in winter 1950/51 for cheese on the market in Riga was 45 rubles per kg, and a bar of chocolate cost 23 rubles and higher. The cheapest sausage, which one would buy only if there was absolutely nothing else to eat, cost 7 rubles for 500 grams in 1950/51, on the market in Riga. This sausage looked like liver sausage but actually had no liver in it. The prices on the market were high also, due to the high admittance fee: a person selling something out of a basket had to pay 3 rubles admittance, but for a horse cart one paid 15 rubles. These prices for admittance were charged in Riga, Bauska, and Leningrad (where there were about seven or eight markets, though source cannot describe the location of each) and other places. [ ]

[ ] prices for comparison:

	Riga	Siauliai/Lithuania	Leningrad
Butter, 1 kg	27	-	80
Coffee beans, 1 kg	56	75	150

Prices for Leningrad as of 1949, others as of 1950.

#### Watches and Clocks

4. Though people had watches, and there were shops selling watches and repairing them in Riga, spare parts were very scarce, and usually people were not able to repair a watch or were afraid to take their watches for repair, since a watchmaker might take spare parts of one watch to repair a watch of a friend or a VIP. Though there were many wrist watches in the shops, German and Soviet make (such as the Pobeda, a good 15-jewel watch for 450 or 500 rubles), alarm clocks were scarce.

A new alarm clock in a shop cost 65-80 rubles; [ ] alarm clocks were scarce,

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200 rubles apiece.

prices for the spare parts:

Winding stem	2-3 rubles
Hand	3-5 rubles
Glass (cut from window pane)	10 rubles
Mainspring	40 rubles
Alarm spring	12 rubles
Balance wheel	15 rubles

Wages

5. The following wages were paid in Lithuania in 1951:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage (in rubles) per month</u>
Unskilled worker (factory)	300 to 400
Railroad worker (unskilled)	300
Railroad conductor, a woman	180
Locksmith	500
Tractor driver (if fulfilling norm)	700
Manager of the electric apparatus in a factory	700
Teacher of elementary school	500 and expenses for one cow
Director of elementary school	700 and expenses for one cow or 800 rubles
Barber, in artel	300 and a percentage, together up to 400 rubles
Watchmaker, in artel	40 % of income from his work

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Fishermen lived better than most workers, though the situation was worse after 1947, when they had to start delivering all their catch to the State and received a bonus for the surplus over the norm.

Medical Conditions25X1  
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6. [redacted] a hospital about ten km from Tallinn [redacted]  
[redacted] The doctor was a Russian woman [redacted]  
[redacted] There were more Russians than Estonians working in the hospital.  
Aspirin was not available in Tallinn, but cotton wadding and adhesive tape could be purchased, the latter costing one ruble [redacted]

[redacted] Lice and skin diseases were common in rural areas. In prisons the prisoners' heads were shaved and they were taken to the baths to rid them of lice. Toilet soap cost four rubles a bar; it was red and caused the skin to smart. A shave cost 1.50 rubles and a shave and haircut, 3.50 rubles. There was no penicillin or salvarsan for treating syphilis, but it was cured by some sort of alcohol injections. In Estonia and Lithuania the relatives of hospital patients must provide food for them.

Deportations25X1  
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7. [redacted] the 1949 deportees went to Omsk, Tomsk, and Kazakhstan and some of them built their own houses and were doing very well. They had been encouraged to take all their possessions, which were taken from them on the way. There were no more monks in the Skaistkalne monastery, near Bauska. Part of the monastery had been burned, and a school for agricultural inspectors was established in the intact section. Much land was not cultivated because of the deportations [redacted]

Railroad Transportation

8. A railroad ticket from Panevezys to Panemune cost 26.90 rubles; from Panevezys to Moscow, 107 rubles. [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] The railroad militia accompanying the train wore curved swords, and the trip took four hours. The third-class cars had shelves above the seats which were used to sleep on.

#### Resistance

9. Up to 1948 partisan activity was fairly vigorous, especially in Lithuania, but activity decreased in 1949, and partisans began operating in smaller bands. The istrebiteli fought partisans; there were 14-16 istrebiteli in Kazaikiski (not located). The chief of this unit had a 70-shot submachine gun; the others had carbines and pistols. They wore no uniforms and received 350 rubles a month; they always looted when searching houses. A German girl 25X1 [redacted] boasted that she received 300 rubles for each person she denounced. A number of Germans were forced to become informers for the MVD after they were caught contacting partisans, etc.

#### Military Activities

- 25X1 10. Along the Latvian coast [redacted] military installations only at Salacgriva. There was an observation tower manned by the Soviet navy, and there were gunboats outside the fishing harbor. In the harbor were smaller naval units, and about a half-kilometer inland was a large farmhouse occupied by 50 or 60 Soviet sailors. It seemed to be a navy school. In 25X1 [redacted] the Bauska-Skaistkalne 25X1 road [redacted] was being made ready for military transports. The road was surfaced with stone chips, not the usual gravel surface. In autumn 1950 army units were stationed on farms around Bauska and Rundale, and a doctor's office was taken over to be used as a dispensary. In spring 1951, many units moved through Panevezys toward Kaunas and Siauliai, and it was said that Kaliningrad was being made into a fortress. Many Lithuanian draftees were sent to Kaliningrad in 1951, and some went to the USSR.

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